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HISTORY
SYRACUSE
1837-1987
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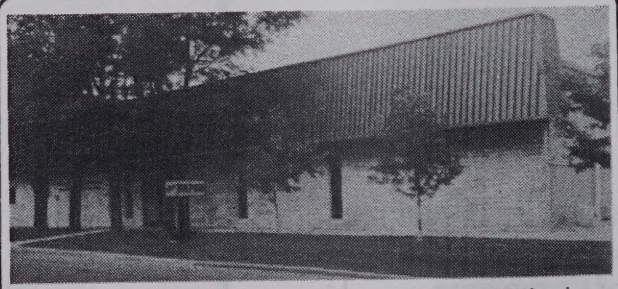

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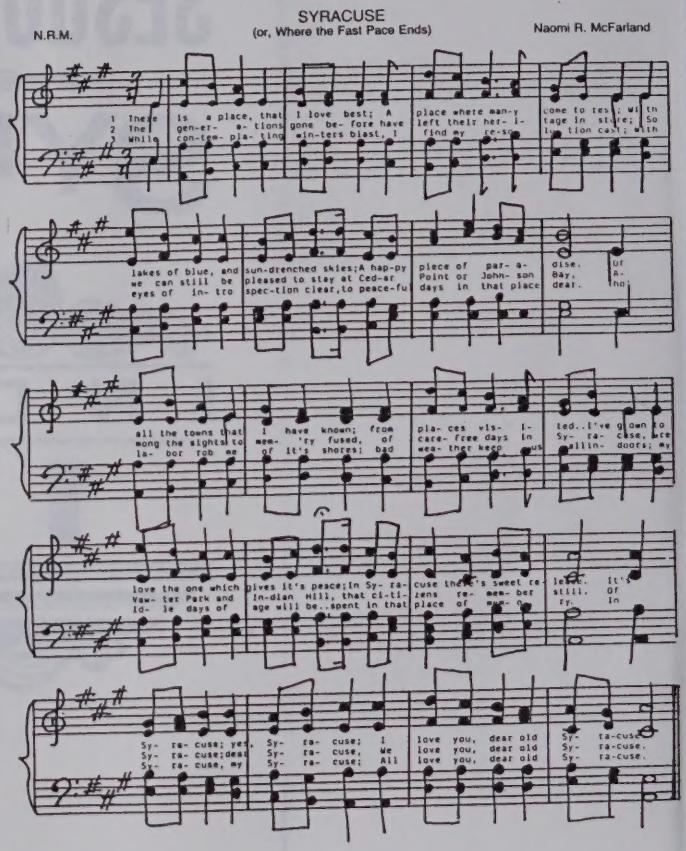
Syracuse Sesquicentennial 1837-1987

In Celebration of Syracuse Sesquicentennial, this brochure contains the history of numerous clubs, organizations and churches who have submitted items in addition to photos, past and present.

Sesquicentennial Executive Committee

Bill Beemer, chairman
Jack Elam
Jeanne Gardiner
Col. Joe Gray
Robert Hampton
Rosalyn Jones
Deb Patterson
Jerry Wright
Richard Wysong

Sesquicentennial Logo designed by Joann Boyer

Looking West On Main Street, Syracuse

THE TOWN OF SYRACUSE

Syracuse Incorporated

Although Syracuse was platted August 11, 1837, it was 39 years later before it was incorporated. In the 1870's the village of Syracuse began to grow by leaps and bounds. Suffering from growing pains it was evident that a form of town government must be established.

The need for incorporation was being voiced around Syracuse as early as the spring and summer of 1875. Finally in September 1876 a petition, drawn up by Edwin Forrest Holloway and signed by numerous citizens of Syracuse, was presented to the County Commissioners.

The request for incorporation of Syracuse was decided at the polls. An election was held two weeks later with a majority of the voters being for incorporation. The County Commissioners of Kosciusko County declared the town of Syracuse, Indiana, officially incorporated October 19, 1876.

The first town board consisted of Amos King, Addison Green, and Evan Miles. Miles was selected by his peers as the first chairman of The Syracuse Town board. His son-in-law, Edwin Forrest Holloway, who prepared the incorporation petition, was elected and served as the first town clerk.

Living in Syracuse after the Civil War was far from being complex. A decision as to what church one should attend was no problem as there was only one house of worship. Bussing students from one school to another was no problem as there was only one school. The citizens of Syracuse looked forward to family get-to-gethers such as picnics and reunions. One old lady is quoted as saying that "attending funerals was about the only recreation she had."

An article written by George W. Miles, June 4, 1908, in the Syracuse Journal sums up life in Syracuse before the turn of the century. "We had less then but we needed less. We lived simply and there were no graduations in our society of wealth. Everybody was a friend to everybody; the people of the village were like members of a single family, each one willing to share the burdens of his brother."

Syracuse Public Library

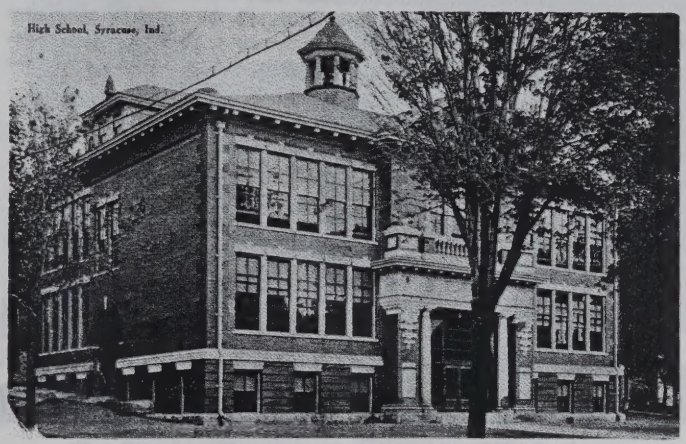
The Syracuse Public Library was organized October 24, 1908 in the east room of the basement in the Syracuse grade school (now torn down) which was located in the lot directly across the street from the present library building at 118 E. Main St. Members of the library board were Mr. C.C. Bachman, President; J.P. Dolan, Andrew Edmonds, Ida Knorr, Irene Sprague, and W.H. Buchholtz. The first librarian, Mrs. Knorr, was hired at $125 a year. The library opened its doors to the public on Lincoln Day, February 12, 1909. Library hours were limited to afternoons and early evenings three days a week. The library collection in the beginning was composed mainly of donations.

In 1916, the library board investigated getting money from the Carnegie Foundation for building a new building. Application was made to

the Andrew Carnegie Library Foundation and a grant of $10,000 was received. Additional funds totaling about $4,000 were raised in the community by donations and a bank loan to cover the building and furnishing costs. The cornerstone was laid in the summer of 1920 and the building was dedicated March 15, 1921.

There have been two major improvements since then. In 1956 the children's room was provided and decorated in the present basement room. In 1963, the library board determined some further remodeling was necessary and by mid-summer 1965 a new front had been added which provided more space for library materials, office space, and an enclosed stairway.

The Syracuse Public Library has been serving our community for 77 years and plans to keep pace with the future needs of Syracuse.



Old Syracuse High School, 1908

Schools

Education, from the beginning, has been a top priority in Syracuse. Records show that as early as 1840 the people of Syracuse signed an agreement to hire Mr. Thomas K. Warner to teach school. The subscribers were to pay two dollars per scholar plus room and board. The townspeople also agreed to furnish firewood and find a school house. Historians believe this school was located on the south west corner of Huntington and Pearl streets. It is possible that an earlier school operated on west Washington street by Jane Crosson Gill a daughter of Samuel Crosson. Some of the citizens that signed the agreement with Mr. Warner were: George Phoebus and Samuel Crosson.

The third school was a log cabin located on the south east corner of Harrison and Washington street. Children were educated at this location from the early 1850s through the 1871/1874 school year.

In the fall of 1874 Syracuse students were privileged to attend school in a new four room brick building. It was located on the lot just south of the Church of God with a long sloping school yard extending to Main street. During the years of 1887/1889 a high school course began. Leading citizen Joseph P. Dolan who came to Syracuse as a time keeper on the B & O railroad was principal of this school for 18 years.

By the turn of the century Syracuse outgrew its school room space. To delay the inevitable an old building (Kern building) was moved onto school property facing Main street to house the overflow of students. By 1907 the school system had a total of eight teachers conducting classes in four inadequate buildings.

In September of 1907 ground was broken for a new school. The new building was built on the lower part of the school yard in front of the 1874 building. The first floor consisted of four rooms that could seat fifty pupils each, a principals office and a teachers lavatory. Two stairways lead to the second floor which contained two class rooms, an assembly room that would seat ninety students, a recitation room and a laboratory. In the fall of 1908 the first classes were held in this modern building.

In the early 1920s population of the town and township increased to the point that the "modern uptown" building was too small to house all of the students. It was decided to build a new high school. The site for the new building was east of South Main on Brooklin street near Turkey creek. Classes began in the fall of 1928. In 1954 an addition was added to house the grade school and a new gymnasium. The building was again added to in 1957. In 1958 the control of the school system was taken from the township trustee and the Metropolitan school Corporation was formed. In 1962 the Lakeland Community School Corporation was formed which included North Webster and Milford.

In 1968 classes began in Wawasee high school which was a consolidation of North Webster, Milford and Syracuse. All Syracuse students to complete high school have graduated from Wawasee since 1969. Wawasee high school was built on land purchased from Bertha Phoebus Searfoss widow of Charles E. Searfoss. Through this sale the cycle seems to have been completed concerning the school of Syracuse. Mr. and Mrs. Searfoss were direct descendents of George Phoebus and Samuel Crosson who were signers of the agreement for a subscription school in 1840.

Wawasee High School

Indians

Before the coming of the white settlers to the Syracuse/Turkey Creek area the country side was inhabited by Indians. The earlier tribe was the Potawatomis and later the Miamis.

On the north side of Syracuse Lake is a high land area known today as Indian Hill. This land was a burial site of the Potawatomi Indian Tribe. The Indians placed the dead bodies in the trees and tied them in place. When the settlers arrived the decayed remains were found and some had fallen to the ground.

A number of years ago a skeleton of an Indian was discovered in this Indian Hill area and was kept in the Syracuse High School for study purposes.

The Miami Indians that lived around the lakes were led by two brothers. One of them being Chief Papakeechie (or Flat Belly) and Chief Waubee.

Chief Wawasee

Chief Papakeechie lived in a brick house that was built for him by the U. S. Government. This house was located north west of the present town of Indian Village in Noble county.

During the administration of President Andrew Jackson Chief Papakeechie and his tribe were ordered to move to the Kansas territory. It is not known for sure if Papakeechie obeyed these orders. One story claims he died and is buried with other members of his tribe near his residence in Noble county. Another story tells that he was drunk and despondent over the order to move and stood up in his canoe, fell in the water and drowned in Turkey Lake (Wawasee).

Chief Waubee lived in a brick house that was built for him by the government, in the Milford area. His name was sometimes spelled Wawaesse. In later years Col. Eli Lilly wanting to find a more suitable name for 9 Mile Lake or Turkey Lake changed the spelling to Wawasee and named the largest natural lake in Indiana after this obscure Miami Indian Chief.

When the order to move to Kansas was received by Chief Wawasee he and members of his small tribe are said to have left during the night and heading north to Michigan were never heard from again.

The Lake House Hotel

Hotels In Syracuse

The first hotel in the township was kept by George Kirkpatrick in 1836. In 1848, James Hall purchased the dwelling of Samuel Crosson (Crawson) in Syracuse and converted it to a hotel. He called his hotel the **Rough and Ready House**. It was located on the corner of Harrison and Carroll Streets.

About 1853, the **Lake House** was built on the NE corner of Main and Huntington Streets by Jacob Renfro.

The twice-named **Lake House** was in business from 1856 to 1896. James Benner moved the building from Huntington and Main Streets to Front Street where it is now a residence. The hotel was previously known as the **Fremont House,** named after a vice president of the United States.

The **Hotel Legrande** was constructed soon after the **Lake House** was moved. In 1910, Charles Estep managed the **Legrande**. Harry Hire bought the restaurant and the hotel property in 1913 and this purchase resulted in several moves. Floyd Launer, the former owner, moved into the W. G. Connolly house. The Connollys moved into the **Kelly House**, a hotel located behind the **Hotel Legrande** (where the present United Telephone Company is located.)

The **Kelly House** was partially constructed in 1867 when an addition was built on to the Elhanan Miles home at 308 South Huntington Street. It did not become known as the **Kelly House** until Dr. D. C. Kelly purchased it in 1873. He built additional rooms to the southeast and converted the entire building to a hotel. In March 1879, the hotel was opened to the public and in 1882 it was the scene of a Washington Day Ball. Kelly sold to Fred Hinderer in 1891 and he improved the property by building a livery and horse barn next door to the north (present United Telephone Company parking lot.)

The **Kelly House** and livery were purchased in 1898 by A. Nehmeyer of Chicago and Mr. Jones was the manager. For a short time, the north side of the building contained a business house and a bowling alley was located in the rear. Mr. and Mrs. Estep of Milford managed this part of the operation. Later that year, Mr. Neff converted the entire structure into three apartment houses.

Little is known of other hotels in Syracuse. The Syracuse newspaper reported some information about three other hotels. The **Holton House** was located where the Pickwick Theater is now. It was mentioned in 190 that a hotel was operated by A. M. Rarrick. The **Hissel Hotel and Boar dinghouse** was constructed of brick from the Strombeck Brick Yard.

LOCAL HISTORY

B & O Train Depot, Syracuse

The B & O

"Kouffman, ven does de locust come in? I vant to yump on de calaboose unt go down to de yumption." These words were spoken by old Peter Searfoss to Joseph Kauffman back in the 1870's. Peter Searfoss (the connecting link of all Searfoss's in Syracuse today) was inquiring of Joseph Kauffman what time the "local" would arrive as he wanted to ride the caboose to the (Milford) junction.

It was a great day back in October of 1874 when the first trains began stopping in Syracuse. Pulled by a belching, coughing steam engine the wooden passenger cars were far from comfortable. The seats were hard and the coaches were furnished with a coal stove for heat in the winter. During the summer months open windows provided the air conditioning topped off with coal smoke and cinders from the engine. Bad as it was the railroad was a definite advancement of travel and shipping that surpassed the ruts and quagmires of the wagon roads of the area.

The B & O provided joy and sadness for the little community. Many happy "hellos" and sad "goodbyes" were exchanged on the platform. Young men of the community mounted the coaches and waved goodbye to wives and sweethearts when their country called. Some came home riding in the baggage car. They had given their all at places like Gettysburg and Andersonville.

The passenger train has long since become a remembrance. The whistle of the old steam locomotives served as an alarm clock for many as they ran on a very punctual schedule. While the noon train whistle would signal the farmers in the field it was time to eat.

Crosson and Ward

Two men came to the west, founded a town and died in financial ruin. This is the way one would describe the partnership of Samuel Crosson and Henry Ward.

The first of this partnership to arrive in Turkey Creek township was Samuel Crosson. He built a dam across the outlet of Syracuse Lake in 1832. This dam was near the present day location of the Huntington street bridge. Crosson of Irish descent was born February 12, 1795. He built a cabin and a flour mill at the dam site around 1834. It was the first mill erected in Kosciusko county. Samuel and wife Nancy came from Ohio with their family of three daughters and one son. He was described as "a very genial and gentlemanly man" — and Mrs. Crosson "a most worthy woman."

The other half of this business partnership was Henry Ward. He was born May 1, 1799 in New Marlboro and raised in West Stockbridge Massachusetts. Ward of English descent earned his living as a surveyor of public lands before coming to Turkey Creek township. Henry became a partner of Crosson in the mill business. In 1837 heavy rains weakened the dam to the point that it gave way and destroyed the mill.

On August 11, 1837 Crosson & Ward platted a portion of this land on the hill west of the lake and named it Syracuse.

Crosson and Ward dug a mill race from the old dam site northwest following present day Dolan Drive and erected a second mill in 1840 near the old power house location. A mill continued on this site many years after Crosson and Ward died.

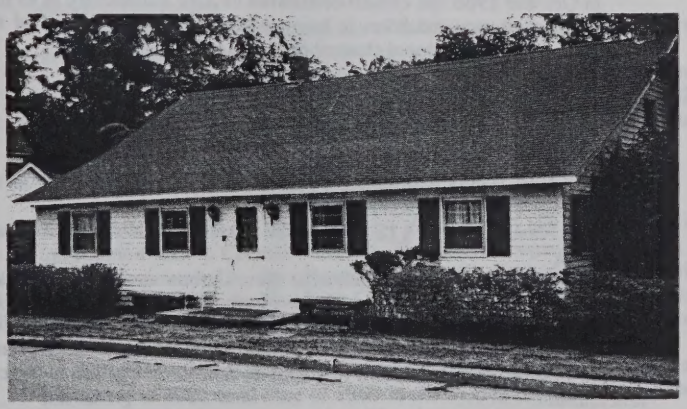
Due partly to local circumstances and the panic of 1837 history reveals the partnership that founded Syracuse crumbled. Debts mounted, lawsuits insued and property values went down which probably attributed to the early death of both partners. Crosson died April 28, 1844. Ward died September 6, 1846 survived only by his widow Sarah.

The Grandma House as it appeared in 1907. At that time the home was a single story. Standing in front of the house is Edwin Forrest Holloway and his wife "Grandma" Barbara Ellen.

The Grandma House

One of the oldest homes in Syracuse is located at the South East Corner of Harrison and Pearl Streets in the original plat of Crosson and Ward. The original site of the structure was located on Washington Street across from the Church of God.

Around the year 1861 Evan Miles and his wife, Katherine, moved to Syracuse and began occupying this home at 200 East Pearl Street. The Miles family had nine living children. The home consisted of one central living room, one bedroom and a lean-to on the east side that served as a kitchen. Evan remodeled the house by replacing the lean-to with a large kitchen and added two bedrooms to the west end. He also provided a cellar. Later, bedrooms were added upstairs and the house became the two story structure as it is today.



The Grandma House today located at 200 E. Pearl.

In later years daughter Barbara Ellen Miles who married Edwin Forrest Holloway occupied the family home.

Evan Miles, the first of this family to live in this home, was elected to the first town board and served as its president.

Title to this property has remained for the last 125 years in the hands of a descendent of the old couple. Eloise Holloway Rogers became owner a few years ago and restored the home and furnished it with antiques. She is the great-granddaughter of Evan Miles. To young Eloise this was her Grandma's house. Even though Grandma Ellen has passed from the scene, she still lives in Eloise's memory. Above the kitchen door is a sign placed there by Eloise during the restoration which reads the "Grandma House".

CHURCHES AND CHURCH CAMPS

All Saints Chapel

All Saints Chapel, Lake Wawasee, was built and consecrated in 1907. Right Rev. John Hazen White, first bishop of the diocese of Indiana, Col. Eli Lilly and Charles A. Sudlow constructed the structure.

Until May 1966 the chapel was used as a summer chapel. During 1966 Rev. David L. Hyndman came to the chapel to establish an organized mission for the diocese. Also made on the grounds was a retreat and conference center, now known as the Wawasee Episcopal Center.

Since 1966, the chapel has undergone interior redecoration, adding improvements.

Calvary United Methodist Church

The roots of Calvary United Methodist Church are from two former churches, Lakeside United Brethren in Christ, formerly at 118 S. Lake St., and Trinity Evangelical Church, Benton and Harrison Streets.

In 1946 both denominations united to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. Then in 1951 the two became Calvary Evangelical United Brethren Church.

The congregation met in the Evangelical Church building with Rev. Kenneth Foulke living in the United Brethren Parsonage at 113 S. Lake St. In the fall of 1955 the first building fund canvass was conducted.

Under Rev. Kennard Robinson's leadership and with the help of the conference, ground was purchased in 1959 on SR 13. Ground was broken on July 31, 1960, with dedication following on October 22, 1961. The two bells in the present church's tower, were taken one each from each of the former churches.

In July 1956 the parsonage was purchased in Bonnie Brae Manor.

The Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist denominations united in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church and thus Calvary United Methodist Church received its present name.

Rev. Ross Cook served as minister from 1972-1978. Rev. Don Sheline became the associate pastor in June 1977 serving until 1978. Rev. Paul Steele followed him in October 1978 leaving in June 1982.

Rev. David Maish has served the church as pastor since June 1982.

In October 1986 the church celebrated its 25th anniversary at its present location. A new addition is being added to the north end of the building to provide additional classrooms and a fellowship hall.

Church of the Brethren

The Church of the Brethren was built in 1887 and dedicated by A. H. Puterbaugh. On April 1907 the congregation was organized.

J. Edwin Jarboe conducted a revival in 1930 and continued as the church's pastor for seven years.

The Miner home at 112 S. Main St., was purchased and used as a parsonage.

Ministers serving the church after Rev. Jarboe were: Ralph Rarick, Lee Cory, Russell Sherman, Virgil Mock, Charles Stouder, Noble Bowman, Otto Laursen, Clayton Mock, Lavon Symmensma, Roy Stiffler, Ethel Denton, Harvey Landis, Harlan Smith, Ralph Wagoner, Jack Farrell, George Phillips, and Rev. John McFarland. Ernest R. Johnson is the current minister.

Church of God

In 1863 the thriving community of Syracuse had a population of over three hundred people. Missing from the scene was a house of worship. Elder George Thomas came to Syracuse to start a church. At the end of a 6 weeks protracted meeting in March of 1863 by Elder Thomas with the result of forty conversions and baptisms the Syracuse Church of God was born.

The Church of God as it looked at the turn of the century. The concrete steps and sidewalk as added in 1899. The Lutheran congregation helped pay the cost of the improvement as they were also worshipping in the building. The tall spire was struck by lighting in a storm in 1916 and had to be removed.

In 1866 Elder J. Shock was successful in the erection of a 38'x56' frame House of Worship. This new building was located at the North town limits on the hill. The street (Washington street) was soon called Church of God street and was listed that way in an 1874 atlas of Kosciusko county. The building was built at a cost of about $3,000.00. The land was donated by Mr. Joseph DeFrees with the stipulation that "all Orthodox denominations of Christians shall be permitted to worship, according to their several creeds."

In keeping with the request a plan was devised to share cost in a meeting December 7, 1870. A sexton was elected for the sum of eighty dollars. The Church of God agreed to pay thirty-one dollars and twenty-five cents. The balance would be divided equally between the Methodists, United Brethern, Lutheran and Dunkards. The sharing of the Church and cost of operation continued for years until one by one the other denominations grew to the point they could erect their own Houses of Worship.

A Union Sunday School was held at the Church of God with all denominations participating. Gradually as other churches were built this too went out of existence. The first Church of God Sunday School was in 1873. In 1917 a class room was added on the east side of the existing structure. A basement was dug in 1951 to house a kitchen and more class rooms. Two more class rooms were added in 1964. Ground was broken August 1973 and a two story brick educational wing was built on the east side replacing the 1917 addition.

As Syracuse celebrates its one hundred and fifty years the congregation of the Church of God takes pride in the fact that their Church has been a part of that history for one hundred and twenty-four years. They share a hope with other Churches in the community that they might offer spiritual guidance to our town in the future as they have done in the past.

Grace Bible Church

Grace Bible Church, Syracuse, was founded in the middle 1940's by Harold DeFries, Dr. John Ray and Howard Vogalmere and was first located in the old Mock School building, south of Syracuse.

Dr. Ray was the first minister and the second minister, Rev. W. McCain, laid the ground work, somewhat, for the church to become incorporated.

In October 1949, the church was moved from the Mock School house to 411 W. Main Street, later becoming 518 S. Main. In 1954, under Rev. M. Raymond Mason the congregation became incorporated into Grace Bible Church of Syracuse. Rev. Mason was the minister until 1962, when the current pastor, Dr. David Haifley was called.

In September 1968 the Syracuse Christian School opened its doors at 518 South Main Street, Syracuse.

In 1970 the old Hex School was purchased. The building was renovated and put into use. The property in town was sold and the church and school moved into the new building in 1971.

A modular type school building was purchased in the summer of 1972. This was occupied for the first time in November 1982 and is now being used for the elementary school. The old building is used for the high school.

Grace Lutheran Church

This congregation started out as the old Union Church and met 1½ miles north of town on the southeast corner of the Guy Ott farm.

In 1861 Rev. M. M. Bartholomew organized and served a church in Syracuse, the exact date of the organization is unknown. This group met in various homes and later in the Church of God where for many years they worshipped.

In 1866 Rev. J. Webber served as pastor until 1872. There was no pastor of the church for 11 years.

Rebecca Weybright and Preston Miles convinced Jesse Dunn minister at the Lutheran Church, Benton, to preach every four weeks in 1883. This soon changed to two weeks and he was ordained in 1884. The church was formerly reorganized on May 17, 1885.

Rev. T. F. Weiskotten was pastor when the new church building was built on land given by Mrs. John Stetler.

Plans were accepted for the new building on August 16, 1904.

The church has been remodeled four times.

Pastors were: M.M. Bartholomew, J. Webber, Jesse Dunn, William Hall, A. H. Arbaugh, S. D. Myers, T. F. Weiskotten, H. N. Thompson, T. R. Ladd, E. F. Valbracht, R.E.M. Engers, William Boatman, R. D. Heim, R. N. McMichael, John A. Pettit, Harvey Currens, J. H. Schmidt, Ernest A. Slottag, Carol Sorensen, Charles White, Carle H. Satre, Theodore Hertenstein, David Mueller, Askel Larson, Steve Archer, Frank Barcus. In June 1985 Richard Dunning took over the pastorship.

Oakwood Park

In 1893, "Conklin Hill," with an area of approximately 40 acres on the west shore of Lake Wawasee, was purchased for the sum of $5,000 and christened "Oakwood Park."

The first camp meeting was held August 1893. The first frame tabernacle was built in 1898, 60 by 90 feet in size, at a cost of $1,500. This building was destroyed by fire on May 22, 1914. Immediately, construction was begun on the octagonally shaped tabernacle which was dedicated in August of 1914 at an approximate cost of $5,000.

The first hotel at Oakwood was a wood frame structure built at the site on top of the hill now occupied by the Lodge. It was built in 1875. After the church bought the property it was used as the "superintendent's home" for a number of years; it was torn down in 1931.

The second hotel was a cement block structure built in 1904-05 on the waterfront site occupied by the present hotel. This hotel was torn down in 1927 so the present hotel could be built.

The present hotel was built in 1927. As the needs of the Church expanded, additional buildings were added to the Park area to accommodate camp meetings, Christian training programs, camping and office facilities for the Evangelical Association.

In 1946, with the formation of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, Oakwood became a campground and conference center for the Indiana North Conference of the new denomination. In 1960, the Oakwood Program Center was constructed to provide additional classroom, meeting and auditorium space.

Quaker Haven Friends Church

Quaker Haven Friends Church was established September 10, 1980. There were 11 concerned Friends present to help organize a new church under the guidance of Indiana Yearly Meeting and Wabash Friends Church. It was decided that the group would meet in Quaker Hall on the grounds of Quaker Haven Camp located on Dewart Lake at the intersections of 500E and 900N. Services during the first years were unprogrammed but usually led by different families in the church.

After four years, a Pulpit Pastor was hired and there has been an increased attendance of 35-45 regularly. Sunday School classes are available for primarys, elementary children and adults.

Seeing that the church was in a unique setting and situation, the members decided to incorporate a Boat-In service during the summer months. This ministry proved to be very successful and appreciated by the residents around the lake. The Boat-In service is held every other Sunday starting on Memorial Day weekend and ending on Labor Day weekend. It consists of fifteen minutes of live gospel music and fifteen minutes of the gospel message. Many persons enjoyed the services from the shore in the comfort of their lawn chairs as others came by boat and anchored off shore.

Quaker Haven Camp

The first camp at Quaker Haven was held in June 1925. Sixty-three people attended, sleeping in tents. Aaron Napier, a New Castle Friends minister, was offered 24+ acres to create a Christian camp for young Friends.

In the spring of 1927 construction of the old lodge was started. The 3-story building housed dormitory space, class rooms, sun porch, kitchen and dining room. More dormitory space was needed so a boy's dorm was soon built. Shortly after that the log cabins were constructed — six each for the boys and girls. Bath houses with hot water showers contributed to camper comfort.

January 1950 saw Western Yearly Meeting buying a half-interest in the camp. Indiana Yearly Meeting and Western Yearly Meeting have equal representation on the Quaker Haven Foundation Board. Each yearly meeting shares equally in camp management.

In 1970 a year-round retreat house was constructed. The retreat house sleeps thirty-six and has meeting and kitchen facilities. A manager's residence was built in 1972 and in 1977 Quaker Haven's first full-time managers were employed by the foundation.

Quaker Hall was completed in 1979. This facility, appraised at one million dollars, contains eating space for two hundred, up to date kitchen facilities, recreation and craft rooms, conference room and offices.

The latest capital improvement is George Fox Cottage — a two-story year round facility. It houses nine or more people and is available for winter/spring rentals.

The camp is now in the process of building two new bath houses and renovating the present ones.

Two other important facilities from our history are the log meeting house (chapel), built in 1953, and the Earlham dorm, acquired in 1982. The meeting house especially serves as the focal point of much camp activity.

Rock Church

The Rock Church, located on the east side of Lake Wawasee, is an Inter-denomational Christian Church. The Church began in the spring of 1981 in response to the Twentieth Century Revival known as the Charismatic Movement. The Rock Church officially became a not-for-profit religious organization in June of 1981. The Church is inter-denominational.

The Church met at the Turkey Creek Conservation Clubhouse from the spring of 1981 until May of 1983 at which time they moved into their

new church building — built on land they'd purchased on 950E (old 13a). The Dedication Service for the new building was September of 83.

The Church provides Bible School on Wednesday evenings in addition to Sunday services. They have an "Operation Blessing" program, in which they help meet the needs of the people in the area, they participate in the Syracuse/Wawasee Ministerial Assoc., and support missions at home and abroad.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

The history of Methodism in Syracuse began in April, 1870, when Rev. William Graham organized a small class of seven members into the Methodist Episcopal Church. They were Maria Phebus, John and Lucy Alexander, Jacob and Nancy Rosenbarger, Mary Kitson and Martha Sargeant. Rev. Graham also served the Milford Methodist Church and the two places, Milford and Syracuse, were known as the Milford circuit.

As the Church of God had the only building in Syracuse which could also be used by other organizations, this is where the little congregation met for several years until plans were finalized for their own church. Groundbreaking took place in May, 1886 at the site of Pearl and Harrison streets, and the cornerstone was laid on June 17, 1886. The church was dedicated on October 15, 1886.

In October, 1897, the first Ladies Aid Society was started. In 1940 the ladies reorganized and became the "Woman's Society of Christian Service." In 1968 the name was changed by one letter to become the "Women's Society of Christian Service." Another name change occurred in 1973 when the ladies became "United Methodist Women," which they are known as today.

By 1954 the church, had been remodeled twice and had become small and overcrowded. On January 20, 1955, a Survey Committee was formed, headed by William T. Jones, Jr. After almost two years of study, committee recommended that a new church be erected at a new location. A Church Planning Committee was then formed on March 31, 1958.

On May 29, 1961, the Building Committee met to finalize the years of work which preceded the actual building. Ground was broken on June 11, 1961 and on December 31, 1961, the cornerstone for the new church was laid.

On Sunday, June 3, 1962, 365 people filled the sanctuary of the new Syracuse Methodist Church for the first service as Rev. J. Ross Richey chose "A Look to the Future" as his sermon. Consecration Sunday was June 24, 1962, with Rev. James Armstrong, whose father Rev. A. J. Armstrong had been pastor at Syracuse from 1929 until 1934.

The Methodist Thrift Shop opened its doors for the first time on February 16, 1962. Operated by a volunteer committee of churchwomen, the shop is stocked entirely with donated clothing and small household items. Mrs. Clifton (Martha) Kinder, whose original idea sparked the beginning of the shop, was the first chairman. In April, 1974, the committee purchased the old Sinclair filling station at 219 South Huntington Street, where the shop stands today.

In 1964 a new brick parsonage was built across the street from the new church. Ralph Thornburg, Jr. was Parsonage Building Committee Chairman.

The union of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren churches took place on April 23, 1968. In this same year the congregation voted to change the name of the church to St. Andrew's United Methodist Church. On Nov. 22, 1970, a special centennial worship service was held, and on Nov. 28, 1971, the official church mortgage burning ceremony was held.

Rev. Lewis Hathaway is the current pastor of the church, having succeeded Rev. Philip Frew in June, 1986.

St. Martin De Porres

Roman Catholic Church

Syracuse United Pentecostal Church

It started in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Johnston, 212 E. Main St., Syracuse, in January 1967 with 13 people. In July 1967 the building

at Pearl and Harrison Street, owned by Wawasee Heights Baptist Churc was purchased.

Rev. Sidney Bryant was the first pastor.

Rev. Terry Fleetwood came in 1972.

In the spring of 1973 the first rededication service was conducte Throughout 1973-74 the church was completely redecorated.

A bus ministry was started in 1974.

Rev. Fleetwood resigned December 1977 and Rev. David Hudso came to the church on June 12, 1978. He served as church pastor until Oc tober 1985.

On October 29, 1985, Rev. Ron Looney was voted pastor. Ron an his wife Leilani and four-year-old son, Brock, moved to Syracuse i November.

The building on the corner of Harrison and Pearl Streets will be 10 years old this Sesquicentennial.

Wawasee Community Church of the Nazarene

The Syracuse Church of the Nazarene is one of the newer denomina tions in the town with the work beginning in early 1962 by the home mis sions board.

Arrangements were made with the Evangelical United Brethrer Church to purchase the property on the corners of East Benton and Lake street and East Benton and South Harrison. The excess property was sold leaving the parsonage at 207 East Benton and the church at the corners o East Benton and South Harrison.

The beginnings of the church was a Vacation Bible School on July 1, 1962. Rev. and Mrs. Underwood and Rev. and Mrs. John W. Secor were directors of the school. Rev. Secor later became director and organizing pastor of the church.

The first regular services began on July 8 and dedication on November 25, 1962, by Dr. Paul C. Updike.

The church had 15 charge members and four transfer members from other Nazarene churches.

Pastors of the past have been John W. Secor, Robert A. Scheidley, Max E. Zell, Norman L. Lincoln and Harold Barton.

In June of 1983 the Syracuse Church of the Nazarene was reorganized with 10 members transferring in from other congregations. Rev. Jim Otis was the new pastor.

The church's name was changed to Wawasee Community Church of the Nazarene. In March 1984, Rev. Ron Blake moved to Syracuse from Corpus Christi, Texas.

The church has purchased property south of Syracuse, on which they plan to build a new facility.

Wawasee Heights Baptist Church

In the spring of 1961 Bible study meetings were taught in homes by Rev. Kenneth Brown. This was the beginning of Wawasee Heights Baptist Church.

The first congregation met as Syracuse Baptist Church and held tent revivals. Regular services began on July 22, 1962, in the Hoosier Skateland, Wawasee Village.

Rev. Brown was the first regular pastor until Rev. James C. Paige came in August 1963. In the fall of 1963 the congregation purchased the old Syracuse Methodist Church and redecorated the structure. Rev. Robert Munday came in 1963 serving as pastor for 10 years.

A recognition council reorganized the church as a duly organized and constituted New Testament Baptist Church in March 1964.

In the fall of 1967 nearly four acres were purchased in Wawasee Heights and with the new building came a new name. In the summer of 1968 services were moved into the basement with the first service being conducted on August 24, 1969. Dedication services were held November 16, 1969.

Rev. James A. Freerksen followed Rev. Munday and served in 1976. Rev. Norman E. McVey, the current pastor, came to the church in October 1978.

Wawasee Lakeside Chapel

Wawasee Lakeside Chapel began in October 1947 when it was started by Goshen College youth in Byer's Chapel. During the winter of 1948, the chapel burned to the ground.

The congregation began meeting the following year in Crow's Nest Barn and later in the year and through 1955, the Turkey Creek Conservation Club House was the meeting site.

In 1952, the chapel became affiliated with the Indiana Michigan Mennonite Mission Board.

During the pastorate of Herbert Yoder, 1952-1961, the chapel was built on the present location in 1955, on the east side of Lake Wawasee. Additional construction was added to each end of the building in 1961.

In 1973 the chapel became an Independent Congregation within the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference. All remodeling and a new sanctuary were completed in 1975.

First pastor of the chapel was Rev. David Shank, who began in 1948. He was followed by Rev. Herbert Yoder and Rev. Jason Martin. Rev. Harlan Steffen assumed the pastorship in 1965 and has been the minister since that time.

Founder's Day Centennial 1935

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 223

On October 30, 1942, Commander Melvin Dillen called a meeting for women interested in forming the Legion Auxiliary. Mrs. Harry Lewallen, Warsaw Unit, described the workings of a unit, naming the different departments and their functions and the necessary steps in starting a unit.

Women in attendance were Zella Coy, Catherine Carr, Mrs. Roy Sargent, Ruby Worth, Mrs. William Harvey, Bertha Harvey, Mrs. Charles Morgan, Mrs. William Pracht, Mrs. Melvin Dillen and Retta Cox. Ruby Worth acted as temporary secretary and Retta Cox was named temporary chairwoman with Rebecca Dillen, Catherine Carr and Esther Pracht on the membership committee.

Officers and committee chairwomen were elected on December 10, 1943, with 18 women, Commander Melvin Dillen and Adjutant Ralph Oyler present. It was voted at this meeting to conduct meetings of the auxiliary on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Legion Hall.

On January 26, 1943, Bernice Zolman, Rochester, the Second District President was the installing officer for Unit 223. Charter members of the American Legion Unit 223 are: Retta Cox, Lucy Miles, Rebecca Dillen, Eloise Method, Esther Pracht, Fannie Hoy, Catherine Carr, Zella Coy, Ruby Worth, Lois Dillen, Marise Dillen, Elaine Coy, Marcile Gray, Barbara Gray, Nina King, Ann Hire, Antionette Landis, Violet Oyler, Mary Hoy, Minnie Blough, Louise Huber, Dorothy Ritter, Lela Harkless, Ruth Mitchell, Erma Byland, Carrie Rapp, Lucy Kroh, Ruth Rapp, Mabel Harvey, Bertha Harvey and Florence Sarjent.

Today there are 186 members and meetings are still conducted the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., in the Legion Hall.

Beta Sigma Phi Sorority

The Kappa Omicron Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was founded in 1973. The sorority currently has eight members, but has had as many as 20 members in the past. Membership is by invitation only. The Kappa Omicron Chapter is part of an international organization.

Beta Sigma Phi often participates in civic causes and charities. In the past, the sorority has participated in the cancer drive, WOWO Penny Pitch, community eye testing, sponsorship of needy families, Santa's arrival, Easter visits to Goshen Hospital, and the Syracuse Elementary School Halloween Carnival.

Several money-raising events throughout the year raise funds for chapter activities. These include a silent auction of handcrafted items, raffles, bake sales, garage sales, cookbook and gift sales, and other events.

Enchanted Hills Playhouse Guild

The Guild's purpose is to support the Enchanted Hills Playhouse summer theater, filling its various needs. It was born on June 13, 1974 at 7:30 p.m. at the barn theater, then owned by three partners — Doug Stark, Bob Zehr, and Rick Gossett. Sixteen members were brought together, by Judy Schmahl to form an active support group for the Playhouse. Charter members are Judy Schmahl, Billie Ganz, Mary Jane Knudsen, Kay Franke and Janet Lemberg.

In 1979, the Playhouse was purchased by Jill Stover. The quality and expectations for the seasons of family-oriented productions grew, and the Guild enthusiastically supported the new leader.

Through the years, the Guild has been blessed with excellent leadership and a membership which freely gives of its time and talent.

The Sesquicentennial Ball is the Enchanted Hills Playhouse Guild's gift to the Town of Syracuse, commemorating the 150th birthday of its home town.

Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority Gamma Sigma Chapter

The Gamma Sigma Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, Syracuse, was chartered in December of 1975, by a group of local women interested in serving their community. It is one of 1500 chapters, numbering 25,000 members, in the United States and two foreign countries.

Locally, Gamma Sigma donates a $200.00 scholarship annually to a Wawasee High School senior, sponsors the Blood Mobile in Syracuse, has helped support Syracuse Park Board projects, Lakeland DayCare Center, Syracuse Fire Department, Syracuse Merchants Association Christmas promotions and the Winter Carnival Committee. In addition, the chapter sponsors a needy family at Christmas and has set up a dental fund at Syracuse Elementary School for children in need of this care.

The Home Arts Club

During the first world war a group of women decided to meet and have a club. Mae Hoover was their first president and instrumental in getting them together.

There were between 20 and 30 members and they called their club The Frog Pond Club after a pond on Mae Hoover's farm. This was 1921. Interest slackened and they almost disbanded. But in 1923 more women got interested and Mrs. Hoover pushed some more. The ladies went to Warsaw and met with Mrs. Bear who was the first County President and formed a club connected to the county organization. They had no name for a long time.

Names like Morehouse — Feldnor — Vera Gathap and Vernos Kline and several ladies who were members of the Salem Church were members. They decided on the name "Home Arts" and limited the membership to 30 and had a waiting list.

There are 15 members at present.

The Ladies Of The Round Table

The Ladies of the Round Table is a Federated Club in Syracuse which was formed in January of 1923. Nine Syracuse ladies met in "The Sign of the Kettle," a popular Syracuse tea room, to form a reading club.

No one seems to know about the origin of the club's name. (Were the tables in the tea room round ones?) After choosing a name, these nine local ladies were soon very busy; electing officers, getting committees appointed, writing the Constitution and By-laws. and planning the programs for the coming year.

In the early years, the club met every two weeks and usually had two programs at each meeting, along with the business at hand.

In 1926, members formed The Junior Ladies of the Round Table especially for young girls of the town. This group continued to be in existence until the late 1960's or early 1970's.

The present club has twenty-five regular and two honorary members.

Lakeland Art Association

The Lakeland Art Association is in its second quarter century of existence. The purpose of this organization is to further the culture of fine arts. It is to stimulate an interest in drawing and painting by artist members and also to have informative meetings so that a broader understanding of art can be studied and appreciated. It is to provide the community with exhibits that can be enjoyed by the public, and to offer services when called upon for various other activities, using the artistic talents of the members.

The association holds its meetings on the fourth Monday of every month at the Bowen Center in Warsaw. In May 1986 the 28th annual spring exhibit was held at the 101 Center building where several hundred guests were able to enjoy the work of artists from the entire Lakeland area. Awards were presented to artists from the entire region. There is usually a fall exhibit also.

Lakeland Eagles and Auxiliary Aerie 3760

Lakeland Eagles were instituted as an Aerie on May 17, 1977, with the auxiliary instituted as an Aerie Auxiliary in November 1977. The motto of the club is a Club of Friendship and a Club of Love.

The first presidents for the Eagles were Leroy Sloan, worthy president, and June Newhard Davis, madam president.

Throughout the 10 year history of the club numerous activities have taken place including the purchase of a building. The 1985-1986 year saw the club having the first district officer, Toby Cross, who served as District Worthy President.

Each year the club has contributed to: Max Baer Heart Fund, Cancer Fund, Jimmy Durante Crippled Children Fund, Child Abuse Fund, Golden Eagles (senior citizens), D.D. Dunlap Kidney Fund, Diabetics fund, and support of state projects.

In 1985-1986 two scholarships were started, one in honor of Joe Thornburg and the other in memory of Forest Plank.

Masonic Lodge

Syracuse Lodge No. 454 Free & Accepted Masons was three years old when the village of Syracuse was incorporated in 1876. The charter of the Lodge is dated May 27, 1873. Membership at that time was nineteen which included the names of John Wayer, Worshipful Master; S.L. Ketering, Senior Warden; and Preston Miles as Junior Warden.

Syracuse Lodge held meetings in concurrence with the time of month that the moon was full. This was done so that the member in attendance could find his way home through the wilderness.

The furniture of the Lodge in use today was purchased in 1899. In 1970 this same furniture was refinished.

With the introduction of electricity to Syracuse the Lodge voted to install electric lights in January of 1904. One month later a "magic lantern" (slide projector) was bought so slides could be shown to aid in lecturing.

For many years Syracuse Lodge No. 454 met in an upstairs room on east Main on the south side of the street. In October of 1945 it was decided to move the Lodge across the street to the old Thornburg building. On

January 2, 1946 permission was granted by the Grand Lodge to move to the new location.

The Thornburg building was purchased by the Lodge in April 1964 and a complete remodeling job began. Many members made available materials at affordable prices or outright gifts. At a special dinner meeting in April of 1972 a mortgage burning ceremony was held and Syracuse Lodge owned it's own temple for the first time in the history of the Lodge.

One year later the Lodge celebrated its 100th birthday and a rededication ceremony was held with many visitors present including many dignitaries from Grand Lodge.

The Lodge today is still in the same location operating on the second floor. The Masonic Lodge building (formerly Thornburg building) was built by S.L. Ketering. He was the same S.L. Ketering that was the first Senior Warden of the Lodge one hundred and fourteen years ago.

The Mothers Clubs of Syracuse

The mothers clubs of Syracuse began before 1949 by Lolite Blocker. The club started as a small group of young mothers who met regularly for the purpose of fellowship, share ideas of parenting, and extend their services throughout the community.

Through the years the club continued to grow as our children have grown. The one original club has now become four clubs: Senior, Junior, Intermediate, and Primary, divided mainly by the ages of children. All clubs meet during the school year and contribute their time to raise money for various community projects, as well as some of the personal needs of our community members. The clubs have started several important community services such as "Meals On Wheels" and the Nursery School at St. Andrew's Methodist Church. They continually support the Scout Cabin and have bought and donated special equipment to the EMS. Each individual club also supports a special family during the year by providing food, clothing, and other needed items at Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

Order of the Eastern Star

On February 13, 1903 a petition was properly obligated to open an O.E.S. Chapter designated as "Syracuse Chapter No. 283" consisting of twenty-eight Charter Members.

Permission was granted and they worked under dispensation until May 21st, when they were regularly constituted. Georgia Ketring Miller was the first person initiated into the new Order.

Syracuse Chapter decided in November 1918 to adopt a French girl, the support to be paid quarterly.

Syracuse Chapter gained Grand Chapter recognition when Past Matron Prim Dunn was appointed Grand Representative of New Jersey in Indiana in 1944, then State wide recognition came with the appointment of Past Matron Suzanne Lisor as District Deputy, District 20, Grand Esther, Grand Associate Conductress then to Worthy Grand Matron, presiding over the State of Indiana in 1977. Past Matron Lois Murray received the Grand Committee appointment of ESTARL Chairman for District 20 in 1977; Past Matron Arlene Mohler received an appointment of Grand Representative of Michigan in Indiana in 1978 and acted on the Registration of Visitors Committee at the recent Grand Session in Indianapolis as of April 1986.

Past Matrons Club

The Past Matrons Club of Syracuse Chapter No. 283 Order of the Eastern Star was organized on April 28, 1938 at the home of Adah Crow.

There were fifteen charter members and the Club was organized "to promote the social welfare of its members" all of whom were active Past Matrons of Syracuse Chapter. A Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, provisions were made for Active, Associate and Inactive Members. Members are initiated each year as they retire as Past Matron of Syracuse Chapter also other Past Matrons living in this area who are admitted by ballot.

Over the period of forty-eight years, four members have received special honors conferred by the Indiana Grand Chapter, Order of the

Eastern Star, most particularly Suzanne Lisor, who served in the Grand East in 1977.

At the present time there are eighteen active members.

We will celebrate our 50th Anniversary beginning with the 1987-88 Club Year.

"Syracuse Business and Professional Women's Club"

The Syracuse Business and Professional Women's Club was organized May 25, 1937. Charter members were Mayme Long, Phyllis Mock, Evelyn Grieger, Helen Snobarger, Margaret Nichols, Bernice Howard, Betty Clark, Nell Laughlin, and Ann Clayton. Mayme Long served as the First President.

The club will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 1987.

During the many years various projects were under taken. Bridge games, Carnival Booths, Talent Shows and "Civic" Night, "ShowBoat," Recipe Books, Bake Sales, Flea Markets, Ice Cream Socials, and Chicken Barbecues were the source of revenue.

The donations were to the Old County Home, Syracuse Drum Corps, Syracuse City Park, Cub Scouts, Campfire Girls, Riley Hospital, Water Safety Program, Safety Patrol, Scout Cabin, Cardinal Center, "Sounds of Hope," Mental Health, Red Cross Bloodmobile, Nursing Association, Syracuse Library, Trees to Cemetery, Syracuse Development Corporation, Goshen Hospital, Syracuse Fire Department, and E.M.S.

Since 1982 a Scholarship has been given to a Wawasee High School Senior who plans to further his/her education.

For several years the club participated in the "Flotilla Parade" and in 1975 won Second Place and the Earl Money Memorial Award.

There are currently 33 members.

The Syracuse Jaycees

The Syracuse Jaycees is the newest area service organization, obtaining its charter in October of 1985. The group, which consists of young men and women from the ages of 18 to 35, has run several successful projects in the community, among them Toys for Tots, a fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy, and Operation Red Ball, a program designed to help firemen and rescue units identify areas of a home where children and invalids frequent.

The main objective of the Jaycee movement is the growth and leadership training that young people receive through worthwhile community projects. While the local organization is quite proud of the projects that they have run, they have also made sure that there is room for social activities within the group; several athletic teams have been fielded, and regular socials are planned by the group.

Syracuse-Wawasee Garden Club

Credit must be given to two women who had the desire for learning more about Artistic Design when they organized the Syracuse-Wawasee Garden Club in 1960. Mrs. W.E. Long and Mrs. Ernest Bushong worked to interest women in the club. In 1985 the club celebrated its twenty-fifth year with a patio dinner party at the home of Priscilla Rhode. Former members were invited. Federation came about in 1966 after much consideration. The club has grown in knowledge under the leadership of North Central District and the Garden Club of Indiana, Inc. They have received many State and National Awards.

The Christmas Bell Walk has been the means of supporting the many projects the club is interested in. The club is building a living fence of evergreens at the Syracuse Cemetery and they maintain a flower garden at the City Park. Annually they contribute to projects sponsored by the State Garden Clubs.

Syracuse-Wawasee Rotary Club

The Syracuse-Wawasee Rotary Club was founded on October 20, 1947. The group was sponsored by the Warsaw Rotary Club and met on December 10, 1947 at the Pickwick Lounge and Restaurant for their charter meeting. Indiana governor Ralph Gates was the honored speaker for the meeting which was chaired by the club's first president, G. Laucks Xanders. Other officers chartering the club were Dale Sprague, VP, Elmer Stucky, Treasurer and Spencer Heerman, Secretary. The first board of directors included: Court Slabaugh, Dale Sprague, G. Laucks Xanders, J. Barton Cox, Douglas Pilcher, Ross W. Osborn, and Charles Kroh. The club's initial membership was 21 Syracuse and Wawasee area businessmen.

The club has been involved in numerous Syracuse and Wawasee area projects and activities through the years. The club sponsored a Sea Troup that held a yearly outing at Syracuse Park. One of the largest early projects was to renovate the land adjacent to St. Andrews Church to form a little league field. Members Bill Cutter and Paul Levernier were instrumental in seeing this project through. Out-field signs were later added and spaces sold to pay for the fields maintenance. A 12 acre tract of land between Syracuse and Dewart Lake was purchased by the club and deeded a forest preserve area to be used by the Boy Scouts for outings and overnight camping.

Member, Father David Hyndman was instrumental, along with other community leaders, in developing the plans for the first permanently housed Day Care Center for the community. A Rotary fund raising project gave the group its first major contribution for their building fund.

Another of the many projects aimed at community improvement was the erecting of the grade school monument across from the library at the once downtown location of the old school. The monument was erected by Rotary members and the area landscaped to add to downtown beautification.

The club annually donated in excess of $5,000.00 to community and area projects and clubs. Among those annually supported are: the Boy Scouts, Lakeland Day Care Center, Lakeland Youth Center, Syracuse Scout Cabin, Syracuse Little League, and many international groups affiliated with Rotary International.

The club's current officers include: Robert Westfall, President; James Evans, VP; Alan Tehan, Secretary-Treasurer. The directors for this sesquicentennial year are: Robert Hampton, Jim Evans, Robert Westfall, Lewis Immel, Henry Whelan, Tom Jackson, Jerry Ganshorn, Ron Kerlin, Roger Kryder.

North Huntington Street

V.F.W. Post 1342 The Ladies Auxiliary

Organizational meetings were held in the Monarch Lumber Building, Skinner Davis home and the upstairs above the Sportsman's Bar through 1970.

The first officers were elected for the 1971-1972 year. Richard Brown was the first elected Commander. He served only a short time before moving away and was replaced by Wayne Coy.

We moved to the double building in the village early in 1971 where the home was until moving to the present building at 420 East Chicago Street. The mortgage burning was held in October 1978.

The Ladies Auxiliary to Lakeside VFW Post #1342 was instituted on 5/19/71. There were 35 members on the Charter. The first president of the Auxiliary was June Davis. There are presently have 177 members. We assist the Posts and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

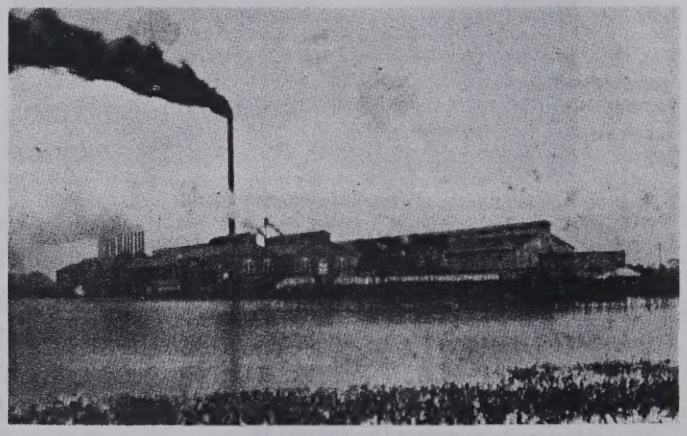
We participate in Syracuse community activities such as the Flotilla, Memorial Day Services and Veterans Day Services. We promote the sale of Buddy Poppies which are made by our disabled veterans, the proceeds of which go to the disabled veterans and their families. We also sponsor other functions for children of the community such as an Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Party, Halloween Party and we sponsor a Brownie Troop. The group donates to many worthwhile organizations.

Quality Hardware

Wawasee Kiwanis Club

On March 7, 1977, a group of men in the Syracuse-Wawasee area met and received a charter as the Wawasee Kiwanis Club under the sponsorship of the Lakeland Kiwanis Club of North Webster. That was the beginning of an organization that soon held an important place in the community, serving persons in various ways. Wawasee Kiwanis continues to be in the forefront of activities in the area.

Who are Kiwanians? "Kiwanians are men banded together to make their communities better places in which to live. They perform community service beyond the capability of government. They work collectively, or through committees. They attend regularly scheduled meetings for fellowship and inspiration. They serve because they want to serve. Kiwanis



Sandusky Portland Cement Co.

makes it possible. They work with young people and senior citizens; they help solve community and social problems; they provide support for spiritual and patriotic endeavors.

"Their purpose is 'Service to Youth, Community, and Nation.' Their clubs are 'service clubs' . . . a phenomenon of twentieth century life. Their ranks are open to all men of good character, the cost is small, the rewards in personal satisfaction are great."

The Wawasee Kiwanis Club is one of over 8,000 clubs in the world with over 300,000 members.

Presidents who have served are Tom Schwartz, Ron Roberts, Jack Oswald, Clair Mohler, Joe Martin, Terry McDonald, Don Denney, Kenneth Bowton, and Robert Sloop. The president for 1986-87 is Herschel Wells.

Special Day

Wednesday Afternoon Club

"On September 19, 1900, six Syracuse ladies, feeling the need of both mental and social contact, met to organize a literary club, the first organization of its kind in Syracuse." The preceding sentence is the opening statement from the "Scrap Book of the Wednesday Afternoon Club" of 1901. The charter members were: Mrs. D.S. Coontz, Mrs. Joe Miller, Mrs. Estich, Mrs. A.A. Norris, Mrs. Charles Knorr and Mrs. Joe Dolan. The first six years the courses of study included General History (outlined by Professor Norris), American Literature of the Colonial and Revolutionary Periods and the biography of Washington Irving.

In 1909-1910 the Constitution and By-Laws and the year's program were printed for the first time. The membership had grown to 13. The next year there were 17 members. The subjects studied were taxation, Alaska and the British Isles. Also debated that year was "General Suffrage for Women." By 1920 there were 20 members and two associate members.

The Wednesday Afternoon Club continued as an independent club, generally studying Literature, History, Current Events and Music until 1934 when it joined the Federation. 1940-41 Revolution in Morals and Revolution in Styles were subjects for programs. During the 1940's Theater appears as the subject matter for several programs.

In the Golden Anniversary Year of 1951 Mrs. Joe Miller returned to Syracuse so the Wednesday Afternoon Club still had an active charter member. The Club Collect was the subject of several programs in 1951, various members interpreting single lines of the Collect. The Fiftieth Anniversary program was a buffet luncheon at the Johnson Hotel. Mrs. Miller reminisced about the early years of the Club. Mrs. Fred Clark sang an anniversary parody written by Mrs. E. L. Fosbrink.

On September 23, 1976 the Wednesday Afternoon Club celebrated its 75th Anniversary. There were 4 members present who were honored as charter members.

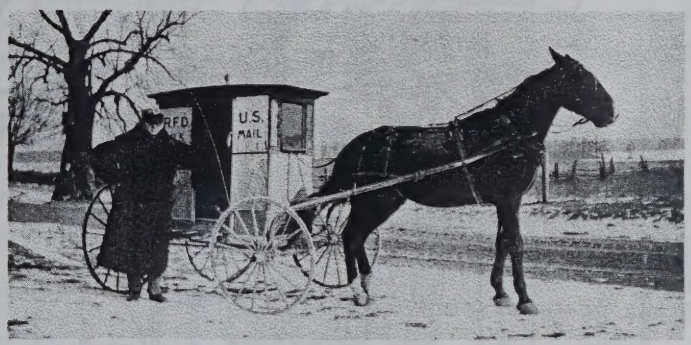
In 1983 the Club members voted to withdraw from the Federation so it is now an independent club again. The programs of the 1980's has continued along the vein established when the Club was founded. There are presently 20 active members, 7 Associate members and two Honorary Members: Ruth Rapp and Lucy Miles.

Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce

The Syracuse-Wawasee Chamber of Commerce was established over 50 years ago to promote the economic growth and well being of commerce and industry in the area. As times have changed so have the desires and the needs of the community. The primary objective of the Chamber remains the same, making the Syracuse-Wawasee area a desired place in which to work, live, play and shop.

The object of the Chamber of Commerce continues to support the economic development of one of the most beautiful areas in the State of Indiana without a negative impact on the environment.

The Chamber has the unique opportunity of promoting this community's many business and industrial opportunities to a wide and varied seasonal population. For over 100 years many of the midwest's most successful business and industrial personalities have been seasonal residents of beautiful Lake Syracuse and Wawasee.



R.F.D. U.S. Mail

Wawasee Property Owners Association, Inc.

Formed at mid-century and dedicated to the preservation and orderly development of Lake Wawasee and service to its membership, the Wawasee Property Owners Association has a long list of accomplishments to its credit.

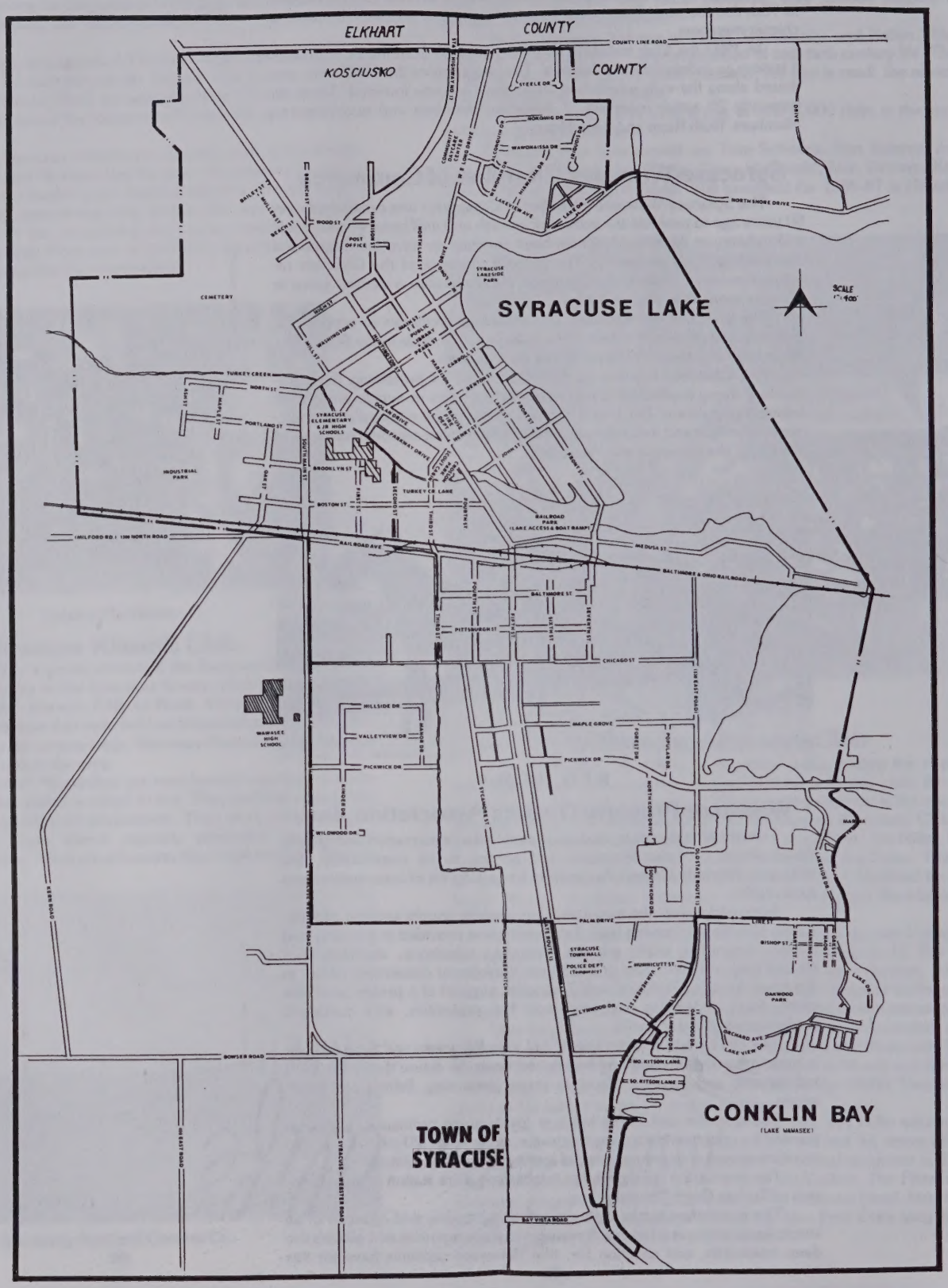
In its early years the association successfully sought revision and updating of Indiana's boating laws. Leadership was provided in planning and zoning, upgrading utility services (including telephone, electricity and natural gas), establishment of a full time emergency dispatching center in Syracuse for all of Turkey Creek Township, support of a professional lake patrol force, upgraded highways and fire protection, and continued maintenance of water quality.

The 1971 study of water quality of Lakes Wawasee and Syracuse was a landmark program, and monitoring continues, to assure that these lakes will be safe and pleasant places to enjoy swimming, fishing and water sports.

Efforts in the mid-1950s led to a local zoning ordinance, now supplanted by county-wide zoning that came along some 20 years later. The association seeks fair enforcement of zoning laws and regulations.

The association led the way in establishing a fire station in the eastern part of Turkey Creek Township.

The association works with governmental bodies and agencies at all levels: local, state, and federal. It conveys to these agencies and officials the deep interest in, and affection for, that Wawasee residents have for this



nd officials the
have for this

TURKEY CREEK TOWNSHIP

remarkable natural resource and the area that surrounds it.

The association is guided by a board of directors elected by the membership. The board in turns elects its officers, which include a salaried executive director who serves also as secretary-treasurer.

Wawasee Yacht Club — History

The Wawasee Yacht Club began in 1935 when Edward Dodez, Joseph Plasket, Byron McCammon and Henry Wahl, Ft. Wayne, were in search of a "home base" for their sailing pastime. Charles E. Bishop offered them the porch space of his boat livery and they operated out of this area for the next four years. The young club hosted a Snipe Class International Regatta in 1938.

By 1939, the growing membership demanded more space. The house was located just east of Tavern Hotel and became the nucleus for the club.

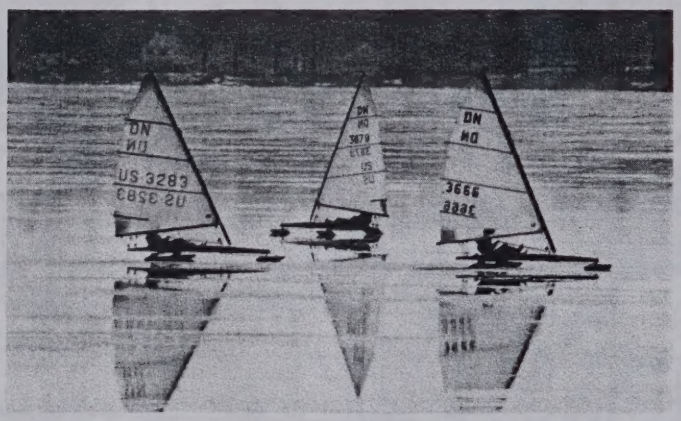
A pier, mooring and docking area began to take shape in the early 1940's. Until the early 1950's, overnight accommodation was only available for some of the men. However, with a growing membership, a dormitory was finally erected by club members in 1951 with areas for men and women. This building is still used as a dormitory today, although it has been remodeled to accommodate family groups.

Competitive racing existed before Wawasee Yacht Club was established. Boats were handcrafted and individually owned. This type of racing boat competed through 1896 and 1897 then disappeared until the mid 1930's when the current club was established. The Cynthia Cup was the coveted award.

For years the Cynthia Cup disappeared until 1904 when it was discovered in the Wawasee Inn by the owner and manager Clinton G. Wiggins. It was turned over to Eli Lilly who presented the cup, along with a deed of gift to the Yacht Club in 1949. It is awarded each year.

For the past 50 years it has participated in Sunday races for class boats on Lake Wawasee.

In 1985 the club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Several charter members were in attendance.



Iceboats On Lake Wawasee

Syracuse-Wawasee Winter Carnival

The Winter Carnival was reinstituted eight years ago by an active group of merchants who were looking for some way to liven up a historically "dead" time of year. The 2-day event is held each year on the last full weekend in January at Syracuse's Lakeside Park — in the park and on the frozen lake. Activities include sledding, ice skating, and snowmobile contests for young and old; a mustache and beard contest; kiddy pedal pull; softball tournament; snowmobile drags and enduro races; cross-country ski races; a snowtilla parade of decorated snowmobiles; bonfire; dance; food; and fireworks! The Carnival is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, with local clubs and organizations committed to coordinating specific events — truly a community activity.

THE ORIGINAL FLOTILLA COMMITTEE
(Left to Right) Tiny Sole, Clem Lisor, Dale Butt, Short McCormick, Earl Money, Tom Socks.

History Of The Wawasee Flotilla Parade

The first Wawasee Flotilla Parade was held on Father's Day, June 18, 1961. It was the result of an idea suggested by Gordon "Short" McCormick. The project was undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce, and the six members of the original Flotilla Committee were Tom Socks, Earl Money, Short McCormick, Dale Butt, Clem Lisor, and Tiny Sole. The program received the complete and wholehearted cooperation of businessmen and residents of the area, who wanted to show their appreciation for the summer residents. The original committee of six was later expanded.

More than 75 entries, all built on pontoon boats, were in this first Parade. It was led by Lt. Gov. Richard Ristine, Honorary Commodore. Eli Lilly was also in the Commodore's boat, which was piloted by Dale Butt.

The Flotilla Parade became an annual event, marking the opening of the vacation season at Syracuse and Wawasee Lake. It was held on or near Father's Day, and called the Father's Day Flotilla. Trophies were awarded in several categories, including the "Top Pop" award and the Commodore's Trophy. As the years went by, the event was expanded to include other events such as dances, races, and beauty pageants.

In a twist of fate, fire destroyed the Pickwick Block on New Year's Eve 1970 and jeopardized the future of the Flotilla Parade. The newly-organized Jaycees had taken over the sponsorship in 1970. The fire destroyed the Jaycees clubroom in the basement of the Pickwick Block, along with all of the Flotilla records. This resulted in the disbanding of the local Jaycee club. However, plans were under way for the 1971 Parade, and they went ahead and staged that event, with Steve Butt as the chairman.

With the Jaycees out of the picture, this left the Flotilla in limbo. There was no Flotilla Parade in 1972 and 1973.

The Flotilla was revived when Ted Rogers joined the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce. At the first Chamber meeting he attended, he was asked if he had any ideas about projects the Chamber should undertake. He replied that he had always enjoyed the Flotilla, and would like to see it reinstated. He was appointed chairman and told to go ahead. It was agreed that the Flotilla Committee should be a committee open to anyone interested in helping. It is still that way today.

The new Flotilla Committee was formed in time to plan and stage the 1974 Flotilla Festival.

It was decided to move the Flotilla date from Father's Day to the Fourth of July in order to have a better chance of good weather.

The 1974 Flotilla Festival included two fireworks displays, a ski show, sailboat regatta, the Flotilla Ball, a mass parachute jump from helicopters to the lake by 15 Green Beret Army Reservists, and the Flotilla Parade. Conservation Officer Earl Money was the Parade Marshal; and Frank Putt was the Commodore. The public response was good, and it was decided to continue the Flotilla Festival as a permanent event as long as the public interest remained.

Through the years, the Flotilla Committee has grown to its present size of 25 to 30 members.

The Sesquicentennial Committee would like to recognize those individuals and businesses who have donated $100 or more towards the 1987 celebration:

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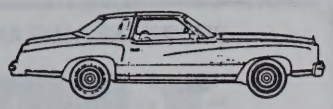

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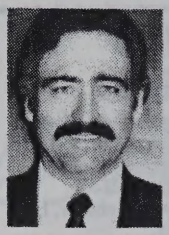

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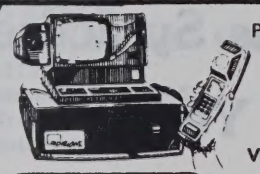
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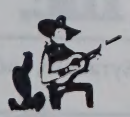
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